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Elizabeth Burmaster
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****NEWS RELEASE****

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Fourth-grade students are bright star in this year's WKCE report

MADISON—"Scores at fourth grade are a bright star in this year's report on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster as she announced that the percentage of fourth-grade students scoring proficient or advanced increased across all subject areas from the previous year.

Burmaster also noted that achievement on the WKCE for African-American fourth-graders was up across all subjects and that reading and language arts scores show step-by-step gains over the last four years.

"Many of these students have benefited from early kindergarten and smaller class sizes through the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) program," she said. "We know these educational opportunities improve academic achievement, and we must support what's right and what works for our children's academic future."

"While over four years the trend in fourth grade is on the rise, it's normal for scores to go up or down a point or two from year to year," Burmaster said. "Looking at test scores over a period of time gives us a broader picture of student achievement, and at fourth-grade performance looks strong."

WKCE Performance

Percent of Total Students Enrolled Scoring
Proficient and Advanced

Fourth Grade	2000-01	2001-02
Reading	78	79
Language Arts	67	73
Mathematics	65	69
Science	72	77
Social Studies	77	82
Eighth Grade	2000-01	2001-02
Reading	73	74
Language Arts	64	70
Mathematics	39	44
Science	62	60
Social Studies	80	80
10th Grade	2000-01	2001-02
Reading	69	60
Language Arts	58	62
Mathematics	46	43
Science	55	48
Social Studies	73	65

(more)

The report on statewide tests in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies administered in February showed eighth-grade student scores were steady or up with the exception of science, and 10th-grade performance slipped across all tests except language arts.

“Overall, student performance on the 2002 WKCE is mixed. These test scores show us some important information about our schools,” Burmaster said. “First, there’s room for improvement. This snapshot shows student performance on one set of tests. Our goal is for every student to perform in the proficient or advanced range. We’ve made significant progress in some areas and must continue our efforts to boost student achievement.

“Second, these results underscore the importance of unceasing efforts to close the achievement gap between students from low-income families and students whose families are more economically secure as well as between students of color and students who are white. We can do that by making the right investments in the early grades.”

Burmaster also noted that when scores are broken down by English proficiency, disability status, socio-economic status, and district residency the gap in achievement is pronounced and the percentages of students not tested is quite high. “These data clearly show us the gap in academic achievement and where we must continue to focus more effort on helping all children succeed in school.

“Progressive, incremental improvement will close the achievement gap,” Burmaster said. “We must move more students from the ranks of not being tested, to taking the tests and from scoring in the minimal and basic performance levels, to scoring proficient and advanced.”

Burmaster expressed concern over achievement at 10th grade on the WKCE. With the exception of language arts, secondary school scores were down from last year in every other subject across all racial and ethnic groups.

“Our college-bound high-schoolers do well on other measures of academic achievement, like college admission tests and Advanced Placement examinations,” Burmaster said. “We must continue working together around our shared values for quality education for all students so the gains we see in early grades are sustained through middle and high school.”

Wisconsin’s performance on the WKCE far outdistanced the nation. The percentage of state students scoring proficient or advanced ranged from 12 to 23 points higher when compared to the nation, with 10th-graders showing a much stronger performance on the tests than their peers nationally.

(more)

“We must not lose sight of the fact that Wisconsin students do quite well overall on state and national tests,” Burmaster said. “Certainly we want to do better, and we want to close the achievement gap between children from low-income families, children of color, and their white and less economically challenged peers. We can close the gap by supporting smaller class sizes in early elementary grades, funding 4-year-old kindergarten, and continuing to ensure quality teachers in every classroom.”

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ATTACHMENTS: Several tables that provide additional information are attached. District-by-district scores are available on the Department of Public Instruction website.

http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/oea/spr_kce.html



Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations

Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations Performance

Percent of Total Students Enrolled Scoring Proficient and Advanced

Fourth Grade	Nation*				State			
	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02
Reading	63	63	63	65	78	77	78	79
Language Arts	60	60	60	60	72	71	67	73
Mathematics	54	54	54	55	74	75	65	69
Science	64	64	64	65	87	87	72	77
Social Studies	62	62	62	66	85	86	77	82
Eighth Grade	Nation*				State			
	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02
Reading	54	54	54	53	74	74	73	74
Language Arts	53	53	53	51	71	71	64	70
Mathematics	24	24	24	24	42	42	39	44
Science	44	44	44	44	66	68	62	60
Social Studies	60	60	60	60	82	81	80	80
10th Grade	Nation*				State			
	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02
Reading	46	46	46	42	68	69	69	60
Language Arts	43	43	43	39	62	63	58	62
Mathematics	21	21	21	20	38	39	46	43
Science	33	33	33	32	50	52	55	48
Social Studies	50	50	50	50	75	75	73	65

* National data for 1998-99 through 2000-01 are based on a 1996 nationwide sample. For 2001-02 national data is based on a 2000 nationwide sample. See <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/oea/kcnorms02.html> for more information.

Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations Performance

Percent of Students in Each Proficiency Category

	Not Tested WSAS				Pre-Requisite Skill/English				Minimal				Basic				Proficient				Advanced			
	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02
Fourth Grade																								
Reading	6	2	1	1	N/A*	4	4	4	5	5	6	5	12	12	12	11	62	63	61	61	16	15	17	18
Language Arts	6	2	1	1	N/A*	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	19	20	22	17	45	45	42	42	27	27	25	31
Mathematics	4	1	1	1	N/A*	3	3	3	2	2	5	4	19	19	26	23	45	43	44	44	30	31	21	25
Science	4	1	1	1	N/A*	2	3	3	1	1	5	4	8	8	19	15	60	60	49	58	27	27	23	19
Social Studies	4	1	1	1	N/A*	2	3	3	3	2	5	5	8	8	13	10	47	47	45	43	38	38	32	39
Eighth Grade																								
Reading	4	2	2	2	N/A*	2	2	2	11	11	12	11	12	12	11	12	57	56	49	56	17	17	24	18
Language Arts	4	2	2	2	N/A*	2	2	2	6	5	8	6	20	20	24	21	43	44	42	51	28	27	22	19
Mathematics	4	2	2	2	N/A*	2	2	2	16	16	17	17	38	38	40	35	28	28	26	28	14	14	13	16
Science	4	2	2	2	N/A*	2	2	2	7	6	10	11	23	23	25	26	49	50	42	43	17	18	20	17
Social Studies	4	3	2	2	N/A*	2	2	2	4	4	5	5	10	11	12	11	43	44	44	45	40	37	36	35
10th Grade																								
Reading	8	6	5	5	N/A*	1	2	2	8	8	7	10	16	16	17	23	44	45	36	37	25	24	33	23
Language Arts	8	6	5	5	N/A*	1	2	2	7	7	12	13	23	22	23	20	45	46	40	44	17	17	18	18
Mathematics	8	6	6	5	N/A*	1	1	2	28	28	24	29	25	26	23	22	28	28	31	27	11	11	15	16
Science	8	7	6	5	N/A*	1	1	2	7	7	13	17	34	33	24	29	43	45	35	35	7	8	20	13
Social Studies	8	6	6	5	N/A*	1	1	2	5	5	7	12	11	12	13	17	43	44	39	40	32	31	34	25

* Information about students with pre-requisite skill/English was not collected prior to 1999-2000.

General Proficiency Categories

Advanced	Distinguished achievement. In-depth understanding of the academic knowledge and skills tested.
Proficient	Competent in the important academic knowledge and skills tested.
Basic	Somewhat competent in the academic knowledge and skills tested.
Minimal Performance	Limited achievement in the academic knowledge and skills tested.

WKCE Performance by Racial/Ethnic Group

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

Fourth Grade	American Indian				Asian				Black				Hispanic				White			
	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02
Reading	66	68	67	68	57	56	50	63	49	50	52	54	55	52	53	53	84	84	84	85
Language Arts	56	58	51	60	54	55	46	58	46	46	39	50	50	46	46	48	78	77	74	80
Mathematics	61	62	50	56	57	58	48	57	41	43	32	36	50	49	41	42	81	81	72	77
Science	80	82	62	69	64	67	49	55	59	62	36	41	66	63	48	48	92	93	79	86
Social Studies	79	80	68	73	68	69	56	62	57	60	48	52	64	61	54	55	91	92	84	88
Percent Not Tested* Enrollment	3-7 962	3-6 962	3-6 980	2-5 959	21-23 2,242	20-22 2,227	21-22 2,309	17-18 2,206	7-8 6,966	5-8 7,164	4-7 6,997	4-6 7,169	17-19 2,511	22-25 2,819	21-24 2,973	26-28 3,433	2-4 50,993	2-3 51,010	1-3 50,560	1-3 49,411
Eighth Grade	American Indian				Asian				Black				Hispanic				White			
	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02
Reading	60	60	57	57	58	58	55	59	37	38	35	38	50	49	47	49	79	79	79	80
Language Arts	53	55	43	50	59	58	46	53	34	35	26	32	48	46	35	44	77	77	71	76
Mathematics	22	27	21	23	31	33	29	31	7	7	6	7	17	17	15	17	48	48	45	51
Science	47	52	43	39	46	50	39	40	22	23	17	16	35	38	28	29	74	75	70	68
Social Studies	69	68	66	68	68	67	66	69	44	42	37	38	60	57	52	55	88	87	86	88
Percent Not Tested* Enrollment	6 946	4-6 962	3-4 936	4-5 1,021	13 2,022	11-12 2,108	12 2,042	8-10 2,177	9-10 5,791	11-12 5,742	9-11 6,058	8-9 6,266	14-15 2,274	17-18 2,353	19 2,617	18-19 2,824	2 56,403	2 55,481	2 54,851	2 53,580
10th Grade	American Indian				Asian				Black				Hispanic				White			
	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02
Reading	49	46	53	41	52	52	55	44	27	29	33	20	40	40	41	32	74	74	75	66
Language Arts	41	41	35	42	43	44	46	47	22	23	26	24	34	34	31	34	68	69	63	67
Mathematics	15	15	22	19	29	31	34	34	6	7	8	8	15	13	16	15	43	44	52	48
Science	31	27	32	29	33	33	37	34	10	11	12	10	21	21	24	20	56	58	62	53
Social Studies	54	52	54	47	59	58	59	53	32	33	35	22	47	46	45	35	81	81	79	71
Percent Not Tested* Enrollment	14-17 821	12-14 870	12-13 915	12 978	15-16 1,830	15-16 1,971	13 2,024	11 2,240	26-30 5,028	26-29 4,964	25-27 5,258	22-24 5,328	24-28 2,214	25-27 2,232	29-30 2,524	28-29 2,623	5 58,389	5 58,066	4 60,377	4 59,743

* The percent not tested is a range of those students not tested on each of the five academic areas of the WKCE.

2001-02 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations Performance

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

Fourth Grade	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Limited English Proficient	2,796	44-46	38	33	33	31	37
English Proficient	60,608	2-3	80	75	70	79	83
Students with Disabilities	8,661	13-23	38	32	35	51	56
Nondisabled	54,743	3	85	80	74	81	86
Economically Disadvantaged	18,104	8-9	63	56	49	58	63
Not Economically Disadvantaged	45,300	3-4	85	81	77	84	89
Not in District Full Academic Year	5,208	8-9	71	65	58	68	72
In District Full Academic Year	58,196	4-5	79	75	70	78	83
Eighth Grade	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Limited English Proficient	1,643	39	23	19	7	12	33
English Proficient	64,563	3	75	70	45	60	81
Students with Disabilities	9,327	12-13	27	22	8	23	45
Nondisabled	56,879	2	81	78	50	65	86
Economically Disadvantaged	14,802	7-8	51	46	20	34	59
Not Economically Disadvantaged	51,404	2	80	76	51	67	86
Not in District Full Academic Year	4,294	8	61	55	28	44	67
In District Full Academic Year	61,912	4	74	70	45	60	81
10th Grade	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Limited English Proficient	1,254	52-53	10	13	6	7	14
English Proficient	70,162	6	61	62	43	48	66
Students with Disabilities	8,703	18	16	14	7	13	24
Nondisabled	62,713	5	66	68	48	53	70
Economically Disadvantaged	11,007	14-15	37	38	21	26	41
Not Economically Disadvantaged	60,409	5	65	66	46	52	69
Not in District Full Academic Year	3,757	17-18	43	42	25	31	46
In District Full Academic Year	67,659	5-6	61	62	43	49	66

* The percent not tested is a range of those students not tested on each of the five academic areas of the WKCE.

2001-02 WKCE National Percentile Ranks

	Fourth Grade	Eighth Grade	10th Grade
Reading	67	65	69
Language Arts	67	64	71
Mathematics	64	71	75
Science	62	65	69
Social Studies	68	67	67

NOTE: The average national percentile rank for all subjects and grades levels is the 50th percentile.